

FACT SHEET

MISSOURI RIVER OIL SPILL UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been coordinating with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and the Equilon Pipeline Company in responding to a continuous, sporadic release of oil on the Missouri River between St. Charles and St. Louis Counties. A small amount of oil continues to seep out of an old pipeline on the bottom of the river. EPA, MDNR and Equilon have agreed to begin the following activities in early April, weather permitting, in an attempt to stop the flow of oil.

SELECTED ACTIVITIES

After careful consideration of safety, effectiveness, and technical feasibility the following activities will be undertaken by Equilon. EPA is requiring that Equilon have response crews on-scene during all phases of these activities. In addition, EPA and MDNR will also be on-scene to monitor all activities.

Pumping/Removing Pipeline Contents from the Bank

This activity involves inserting a flexible pipe or hose into the line and siphoning out the leaking liquid. The pump and hose will be fed from the shore into the pipeline and any oil or water will be pumped out and placed into containers. The water and oil that are extracted will be properly handled and disposed of appropriately. All work will occur via operations on the river bank.

Diving Operations

This activity involves two steps. First, deflector shields will be placed upstream to allow the divers to enter the water. The deflector shields will direct the current away from the work area. Second, a diver will enter the river in an attempt to locate the pipeline and determine what condition the line is in.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Complaints of oil releases on the Missouri River in the area of the Boone Bridge date back to the early 1970's. EPA was notified of this discharge last Labor Day weekend when a fisherman marked the location where the oil was bubbling up from the river. Prior to that time, no source location had been found. Since September 2000, EPA and MDNR have been working with Equilon to resolve this release. Complicating factors in stopping the release have included:

unknown condition of the pipeline; very strong currents in the river which hamper booming activities and working conditions; and adverse weather conditions which also limit access to the river and surrounding areas. This combination of factors has made it very unsafe to conduct extensive work at the site during the last several months.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have questions or need additional information about this activity, please contact:

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